Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

Hunting and Non-Hunting 1989

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

90-05286/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Accident Summary. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm accident was obtained.

Prepared by
Maurice A. Comeau
Coordinator
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please contact us at 1495 St. James St., or phone 945-6644.

SYNOPSIS OF 1989 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1988	1989
Total Number of Accidents	**26**	**27**
Fatal	4	3
Non-fatal	22	24
Hunting Legally During Regular Season	**6**	**10**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	6	9
Treaty Indian Hunting	**5**	**4**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	4	3
Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegally Hunting	**3**	**4**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	2	3
Non-hunting Accidents	**12**	**9**
Fatal in the home	1	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	1	0
Non-fatal in the home	3	2
Non-fatal in a vehicle	3	2
Non-fatal outside the home	4	5
Shooter Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Accidents Involving Shooter 18 years and under	**11**	**12**
All Types of Hunting	**5**	**6**
Fatal	0	2
Non-fatal	5	4
Non-hunting	**6**	**6**
Fatal	2	0
Non-fatal	4	6

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1988	1989
.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	**9**	**12**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	8	11
Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	**2**	**5**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	1	4
Shotgun	**11**	**9**
Fatal	1	1
Non-fatal	10	8
Hand Gun	**1**	**1**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	1
Pellet Gun	**3**	**0**
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	2	0
Unknown	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1988	1989
0 to 10 yards	19	17
10 to 50 yards	5	8
50 to 100 yards	1	1
over 100 yards	1	1
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	1988	1989
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	3 *	3
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	6 **	6 *
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	6	1
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	4	11
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	4 *	5 *
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	1	0
Unknown	2	1 *
By Day		
Sunday	3 *	4 *
Monday	6	3
Tuesday	3 *	0
Wednesday	0	4
Thursday	7 *	3
Friday	4 *	5 *
Saturday	3	8 *
By Month		
January	1	0
February	1	1
March	1 *	0
April	4 *	1
May	1	1
June	2	4 *
July	0	1
August	2 *	2
September	4	4
October	6	9 *
November	3 *	4 *
December	1	0

* Indicates one fatal

SUMMARY OF 1989 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoy shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE!** Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**
3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE,** take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS,** and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER;** know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT;** avoid all horseplay.
7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN;** never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER;** at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY,** beyond reach of children.
10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday February 10 5:00 pm	S - 19 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 1 0 yds	Rabbits	No	While hunting rabbits the shooter tripped on a branch and shot himself in the foot.
Sunday April 30 8:00 pm	S - 30 V - 34	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Beaver	No	The shooter and victim were on opposite banks of a river. The banks were heavily covered with red willow. The shooter fired at a beaver and the bullet ricochetted off the water and struck the victim in the chest resulting in the loss of his kidney.
Saturday May 13 8:20 pm	S - 5 V - 9	No	243 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	A firearm with the clip attached was left in a vehicle. A young child in the vehicle worked the action and the firearm discharged. The victim outside of the car was struck by the bullet in the lower abdomen.
Sunday June 11 U.K.	S - 13 V - 14	Yes	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Rabbits	No	Both subjects had sat down for a rest while out hunting rabbits. The shooter was holding his rifle in an upward position with his finger on the trigger. The victim stood up and the shooter felt a tug on the rifle. It discharged and the bullet struck the victim in the head.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday June 17 6:45 am	S - 16 V - 15	No	22 cal. rifle	50-100 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The shooter was plinking at a fence post near a campsite. The victim rode up into the area on a motor bike. The shooter thought he was turning into the campsite but the victim rode into the line of fire. The bullet struck him in the left arm.
Monday June 19 4:00 pm	S - 6 V - 9	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	Two children were left unattended in a vehicle. A six year old discharged a firearm which was in the vehicle and the bullet struck his 9 year old sister in the left index finger.
Wednesday June 21 5:30 pm	S - 17 V - 13	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Ducks	Yes	The victim was across a pond and out of sight of the shooter. He was attempting to retrieve a bird they had shot. The shooter discharged his rifle towards the pond and the bullet ricochetted striking the victim in the lower right arm.
Thursday July 13 6:30 pm	S - 3 V - 41	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The victim had placed his rifle on some rocks while he was washing in a lake. His daughter picked up the rifle and it discharged. The bullet struck the victim in the heel.
Sunday August 6 3:35 pm	S - 18 V - 18	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Sparrows	No	While the shooter was unloading his firearm it discharged with the bullet striking the victim in the back.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday August 27 5:10 pm	S - 19 V - 19	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	While out target practicing the shooter fired what he thought was the last round in his semi-auto rifle. When he pulled the trigger again it didn't discharge. He accidentally pulled the trigger again and it discharged with the bullet striking the victim in the ankle.
Saturday Sept. 2 11:00 am	S - 35 Self Inflicted	No	Shotgun	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	Yes	While trap shooting in a gravel pit the victims shotgun split near the chamber. He received lacerations to the left wrist and upper arm requiring 10 stitches. He was using reloads at the time.
Friday Sept. 22 6:30 am	S - 23 Self Inflicted	No	257 cal rifle	0-10 yds	Moose	Yes	The shooter had his rifle on his lap and was checking to see if the safety was on. At the same time he had his hand over the muzzle. The firearm discharged and his middle finger was shot off.
Wednesday Sept. 27 8:30 pm	S - 35 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. handgun	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	This accident occurred at a shooting range. The shooter sneezed while firing his handgun. The bullet struck him in the left forearm.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday Sept. 30 3:30 pm	S - 65 V - 44	No	Shotgun	10-50 yds	Upland Game Birds	No	Victim was out of sight of the shooter in dense bush. When the shooter discharged his shotgun, the victim was struck by pellets to both legs.
Monday October 2 4:10 pm	S - 37 Self Inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Waterfowl	Yes	While hunting waterfowl in a field the shooter became entangled in the burlap camouflage which he was underneath. His shotgun discharged and he received pellet wounds to his left heel.
Wednesday October 4 9:15 am	S - 32 V - 30	No	12 gauge shotgun	10-50 yds	Grouse	Unknown	The victim was hunting with the shooter and was hidden by brush. When a grouse flushed up the shooter fired at it and the victim was struck in the thigh by two pellets.
Monday October 9 4:31 pm	S - 14 V - 15	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Grouse	No	The shooter dropped his rifle on a rock. The rifle discharged and the bullet struck the victim in the back.
Saturday October 14 4:15 pm	S - 40 V - 56	No	12 gauge shotgun	10-50 yds	Grouse	Yes	The shooter saw movement in some brush and thought it was a bird. He fired in that direction and pellets struck the victim in the lower part of the legs.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Thursday October 19 2:15 pm	S - 17 V - 16	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	The shooter and the victim were entering a cabin. The shooter butted his rifle against the wall and it discharged. The victim was struck by a bullet to his left forearm.
Friday October 20 6:15 pm	S - 15 V - 19	Yes	Shotgun	0-10 yds	Partridge	Yes	The shooter was unloading his firearm outside of his vehicle. The firearm discharged and the shot went through the windshield striking the victim who had just entered the vehicle.
Saturday October 21 10:00 am	S - 28 Self Inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0-10 yds	Ducks	Yes	The shooter discharged his shotgun and it burst just ahead of the forearm. He received powder burns and a cut to his right hand. He was using hand loads at the time.
Wednesday October 25 5:00 pm	S - U.K. V - 60	No	Shotgun	10-50 yds	Ducks	No	The victim was standing in tall grass along a marsh and across from the shooter. He was struck by pellets to his head, back, and left hand.
Saturday October 28 11:00 am	S - 10 V - 8	No	22 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Non-Hunting	No	A number of children were playing in the bedroom. The shooter had picked up the rifle and it discharged. The bullet struck the victim above the knee. The rifle hadn't been used for two years as it had a damaged firing pin.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday November 4 9:00 am	S - 59 V - 25	Yes	303 cal. rifle	100 yds or more	Moose	No	Victim was wearing a dark jacket and white pants - no hat. He was standing in a clearing and was mistaken for a moose by the shooter.
Thursday November 9 10:40 am	S - 18 V - 18	No	Shotgun	10-50 yds	Birds	Unknown	The victim moved into the line of fire as the shooter was discharging his shotgun.
Friday November 10 4:00 pm	S - U.K. V - 54	No	3 0 : 0 6 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Deer	Unknown	A group of hunters were standing around talking. A firearm that was propped against a tree fell to the ground and discharged. The bullet struck the victim in both legs.
Friday November 17 8:30 am	S - 27 Self Inflicted	No	30-30 cal. rifle	0-10 yds	Deer	Unknown	The victim was 20 feet up in a tree stand. The rifle fell and discharged. The bullet entered the upper leg and came to rest next to the kidney.